



State Senator **NANCY CASSIS** *E-NEWS UPDATE*

Focusing on the Three E's: Economy, Entrepreneurship and Education

Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming, and House Speaker Craig DeRoche, R-Nov, this week announced a comprehensive effort to restructure Michigan's tax code and regulatory structure to make Michigan's business climate more competitive with other states.

As part of this agenda, I introduced Senate Bill 957, which lowers the alternative tax rate small businesses pay on the Single Business Tax. Small businesses are the backbone of the state and employ approximately 70 percent of all workers. This legislation could cut taxes in half for more than 30,000 Michigan job providers.

This reinforces my focus on the Three E's - Economy, Entrepreneurship and Education. They are the key to our state's economic revival. This proposal sends a strong signal to Michigan businesses that we are committed to reducing their tax burden and making Michigan more competitive.

I expect to see this legislation move quickly through the Legislature.

Restoring Metroparks Funding

Last week I also unveiled legislation to restore funding to Michigan metroparks and other eligible authorities, which would address a consequence of the 2004 acceleration of county property tax payments that led to the loss of funding for parks such as the Huron-Clinton Metropark Authority (HCMA). Because of the tax shift, HCMA has lost \$530,000 from its annual budget, which could adversely affect Indian Springs, Stony Creek and Kensington metroparks among other state metroparks.

I said at the time that this was nothing but a tax shift and a shaft and now we are seeing the consequences. I opposed the tax shift because it was effectively a tax increase for most property owners.

The first bill requires the state to restore payments to the counties for metroparks and other eligible authorities, including libraries, transit and airports. The second bill calls for the counties to pass these funds on to authorities. Parks and authorities across the state have experienced \$1.2 million in lost funding.

Contact Information:

The E-News Update by Senator Nancy Cassis is designed to provide residents and organizations with a periodic update of my activity in Lansing. If you have any questions or do not wish to receive this e-mail, please contact my office.

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